# MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

## 22 DECEMBER 1983

### PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Cairo — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Port Said, Egypt, early on 22 December, MENA announced, and conferred later the same day in Cairo with President Husni Mubarak. The two leaders held a press conference after private talks, the agency said, and Mubarak hosted a banquet for 'Arafat in the evening. Amman television predicted that 'Arafat would meet King Husayn in the "next few days" and that the Fatah Central Committee would hold a meeting chaired by 'Arafat "before the end of this month."

Palestinian Groups Meet — Representatives of the DFLP-PFLP joint command, the Palestine Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front held at an expanded political meeting in Damascus on 19 December and released a political statement published by the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*. The statement viewed U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation as an attempt to strengthen the occupation of Arab areas by "expanding settlement projects and by the actual annexation" of those areas. It underlined the need to adhere to the Lebanese cease-fire and stressed the right for all Palestinian factions to be on confrontation lines near the "Zionist enemy" and to work in "democratic coexistence" in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The parties also called for an expanded Palestinian leadership meeting comprising representatives of all major organizations, including the two factions of Fatah, and asserted that the pressures on the Palestinian movement must be fought by stopping calls to renew dialogue with Jordan and to abandon the isolation imposed on Egypt.

### Lebanon

Bombings — A truck loaded with explosives blew up outside the headquarters of the French contingent of the Multinational Force, killing 9 and wounding 10 others, Beirut radio announced. Paris radio acknowledged that one French soldier was killed and "a dozen" wounded, while the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon gave figures of 9 dead and "over 100" wounded. Among those wounded was Information Minister Roger Shaykhani, who was released from the hospital after treatment, Beirut radio said. An Army Command statement broadcast by the radio said the truck's driver escaped in a car that had been waiting nearby.

Almost simultaneous with the explosion at the French headquarters, another bomb went off in the Al-Hamra area of Beirut, killing 4 and wounding 12, Beirut radio said. An anonymous telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that the "Black Palm organization" was responsible for both bombings. The "Islamic Jihad movement" also claimed responsibility for the blasts in a telephone call to AFP.

Military Developments — A U.S. Marine patrol was fired on in the 'Ayn al-Muraysah area and one Marine was wounded, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and the surrounding mountain regions continued to come under shell and rocket fire, according to the radio, and the Voice of Lebanon stated that Progressive Socialist Party forces shelled a monastery in Juniyah and the surrounding area. An Israeli patrol was fired on in Sidon, Beirut radio added.

Political Developments — President Reagan's news conference statements on the Marines' remaining in Lebanon and U.S. commitment to solve the Lebanese question was met with "general satisfaction" in official and popular Lebanese circles, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Beirut on 20 December to pursue contacts aimed at effecting an "interim disengagement" among all warring factions pending a meeting of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon on ways to dispel tension in Lebanon, according to a political source cited by KUNA. Beirut radio reported that Al-Hariri met that day with Foreign Minister Elie Salim to discuss the results of Saudi contacts with Syria.

In another development, the Iranian charge d'affaires contacted the Lebanese Foreign Ministry to explain that he and his staff had been "detained" by "ulema and gunmen" and would not be able to leave Lebanon as the Lebanese Government had ordered, Beirut radio announced. AFP quoted the charge as remarking to a group of Shi'ite religious leaders that the Americans "will leave Lebanon before we do" and that "the decision to break relations with Iran is a challenge to Muslims that we will prevent."

Dayr al-Qamar — IDF troops safeguarding the evacuation of Phalangists and Christian civilians from Dayr al-Qamar ended their mission and returned to their positions south of the Al-Awwali River, leaving the Red Cross and Lebanese security forces to oversee the remainder of the withdrawal, IDF Radio announced. On 21 December the radio said that Druze forces had not attempted to harrass the withdrawing Phalangists and Christians and predicted that the evacuation would end "within 3 days." However, security sources cited by Beirut radio reported that a convoy of evacuees from the besieged town was fired on early on 22 December.

Tripoli Situation — In the wake of the departure of Palestinian forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat, the Islamic Unification Movement and Lebanese Internal Security Forces have been patrolling the city, the Voice of Lebanon stated. The radio asserted that contacts to end "armed manifestations" and reduce tension in the city will be completed on 22 December.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League foreign ministers will meet in Riyadh on 26 January to prepare for the Arab summit meeting scheduled to be held in the same city on 31 March, according to an Arab League General Secretariat statement reported by SPA.

## Saharan Affairs

An SDAR communique reported by Algiers radio stated that "fierce battles" are taking place between the "Saharan People's Liberation Army" and the Moroccan Army. The communique asserted that that the Moroccan Army had attacked with 25,000 men equipped with heavy weapons and supported by the Moroccan Air Force.

## Sudan

A "senior responsible Egyptian source," in a statement published in *AL-AHRAM*, dismissed the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY's claim that Egypt has sent warplanes to Sudan, insisting that Egypt has no warplanes or military forces in Sudan, MENA reported.

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**Fighting 'Close to Pakistan Border' Reported**
*PM211317 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 21 Dec 83 p 4*

[M. Aftab dispatch: "Afghan Battle Close to Khyber Pass"]

[Text] Landi Kotal — The guerrilla war waged by the Mujahidin against Afghan and Russian troops has now come close to the Pakistan border with a battle near the Khyber pass.

At least 20 Afghan soldiers were killed in 14 hours of fighting at Towr Kham, 140 miles north-west of Islamabad. The fighting started on Sunday and continued into Monday.

Pakistani officials confirmed that 12 Afghan soldiers had fled across the border.

The hostilities began on Tuesday, Dec. 6 when the Pathan rebels occupied military outposts around Towr Kham. On Sunday they overran and took control of government buildings in the town itself.

The battle was clearly visible from Landi Kotal, the Pakistani customs and immigration post which was only 200 yards from the action.

Four Russign MiG aircraft and two helicopters were said to have bombed the rebels on Monday in the fight to regain control of the Towr Kham complex. But this report was not confirmed by Pakistani officials.

The rebels have been fighting against the Russians and the Moscow-installed Babrak regime since Dec. 27, 1979, when the Russians invaded Afghanistan. There are now 105,000 Russian troops stationed in the country.

Meanwhile 12 Russians were killed at Qarah Bagh in the Shomali region, north of Kabul on Dec 16. The Resistance also destroyed three Russian armoured vehicles, according to diplomatic sources.

In Qandahar, in south-eastern Afghanistan, rebels attacked the local headquarters of Khad, the Afghan Secret Police, with rocket fire late last month. After the attack they closed in with a small arms fire, killing two Khad officers and kidnapping two more.

The Mujahidin ambushed the Salang tunnel, between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on Dec. 9. The route was closed for an hour, and 45 Afghan soldiers, as well as three members of the Communist party, were seized and released later, after being relieved of their weapons.

**Karachi Cites Mujahidin Attacks in Baghlan**
*BK221036 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Dec 83*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of continued fighting between the mujahidin and the Karmal forces in Baghlan City. At least 15 Karmal soldiers are reported to have been killed. The mujahidin also destroyed two military outposts in the central areas of Baghlan City.

They also attacked the Karmal forces near (Pulkhomri) and destroyed with rocket launchers two armored vehicles.

### Pakistan Told To Improve Atmosphere Before Talks

*BK221009 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Dec 83*

[Text] India has conveyed to Pakistan the urgent need to improve the atmosphere between the two countries before they can resume meaningful discussions. The foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, drew the attention of the Pakistan ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Piracha, to the vitiation of atmosphere between the two countries following events in Sind for which India is not even remotely responsible. Mr Rasgotra has invited Mr Piracha for a general exchange of views on the state of Indo-Pakistan relations.

Asked by Mr Piracha about when Mr Rasgotra would be able to go to Islamabad to resume bilateral discussions on the proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation and a no-war pact, the foreign secretary said the atmosphere will first have to be improved so that the discussions can be fruitful. He also emphasized the need to activate the four subcommissions set up last June.

### Further on Rasgotra-Piracha Meeting

*BK211627 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 21 (AFP) — India had told Pakistan that there can no [as received] meaningful bilateral discussions on proposals for a bilateral friendship treaty or a no-war pact in view of the present vitiated atmosphere between New Delhi and Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman said today. The spokesman said Foreign Office Secretary Maharaj Kumar Rasgotra conveyed the Indian view to Pakistani Ambassador Riaz Piracha here yesterday during a review of Indo-Pakistani ties. Mr. Rasgotra said recent incidents in the Pakistani Province of Sind had vitiated the atmosphere between the two countries and denied that India was even remotely responsible for them.

Press reports earlier said Pakistani authorities had alleged that India was showing interest in the unrest in Sind, where Pakistan's opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy is involved.

The Pakistani ambassador raised the proposed visit of Mr. Rasgotra to Islamabad to resume the dialogue on prospects for the no-war or friendship treaty but the Indian foreign secretary said that to be meaningful, the visit should await a better climate.

The two countries had earlier agreed that their foreign secretaries should meet at a mutually convenient date to resume the discussions.

The spokesman said Mr. Rasgotra said activation of the sub-commissions of the India-Pakistan joint commission would be helpful. Observers here recalled that Natwar Singh, secretary in the Indian Foreign Office, had made a similar suggestion when he met Mr. Piracha earlier this week and proposed that two of the four sub-commissions — on information and travel — meet here next January 4-6.

Meanwhile, participants at a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee attached to the Foreign Office here today voiced concern at Islamabad's frequent references to minority groups in India. They also focused on the fate of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails and Islamabad's alleged inaction in putting on trial the Sikh hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane in 1980, the spokesman said.

Junior Foreign Minister A.A. Rahim told the meeting that India had protested to Pakistan over these issues. He said over 350 Indians, including defence personnel, were in Pakistani jails.

### Minister Briefs Committee on Pakistan, Other Issues

*BK211631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Members of the parliamentary consultative committee for the External Affairs Ministry today expressed concern at what has been repeated in Pakistan from time to time about the treatment of minorities in India. At a meeting in New Delhi, they asked the government to specify its attitude on such persistent interference in India's internal affairs and also on the condition of minorities in Pakistan itself.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim, assured them that the government is well aware of the problem and shares the concern of the members. He recalled that the secretary in the ministry, Mr Natwar Singh, has drawn the attention of the Pakistan ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Piracha, to the conclusion of recent conference in Islamabad. Later, the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, too conveyed similar feelings to Mr Piracha.

Mr Rahim told the committee that despite our urging Pakistan to exercise restraint, they keep on raking up the issue. However, India never let it pass unchallenged, and protests were lodged with the Pakistan authorities. He reiterated that minorities in India have full constitutional rights and they are part of the main fabric of our society.

Asked by members about the five hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane, Mr Rahim said Pakistan has neither repatriated them nor brought them to trial despite their repeated assurances of an early action. They also expressed concern over the fate of Indian prisoners in Pakistan. Mr Rahim said that the matter was taken up at the highest level.

Replying to questions on the problem of vested property in Bangladesh, Mr Rahim said we have urged Dhaka at the highest level that these should not be disposed off but restored to their legitimate owners. Otherwise, they should paid proper compensation.

About China, Mr Rahim reiterated that India would like to normalize relations with her. But he made it clear that the settlement of the boundary issue is the main question.

In reply to a question regarding a newspaper report that Dr Ganga Singh Dhillon, president of the Nankana Sahib Foundation, is visiting India, Mr Rahim told the committee that he had not been granted a visa for this purpose.

**Sethi Says Arms of Bangladesh Origin Seized**
*BK221025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 83*

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, told the Rajya Sabha today that arms of Bangladesh origin have been seized from the extremists who were arrested in Assam. He said during question hour that some of them have tried to contact extremist groups of the neighboring countries. He denied having any information that the arms of Burmese origin have been seized and also expressed his inability to tell the members which particular group the extremists belonged to.

**18 More Outposts Along Bangladesh Border**
*BK211643 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Eighteen more outposts were set up along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border in the last 2 months to check infiltration. With this the toal number of outposts go up to 250. Giving this information in the lower house of Parliament today, the minister of state for home [affairs], Mr N.R. Laskar, said two observation towers are also under construction.

**Relief Aid Given to Indian Refugees in Sri Lanka**
*BK221029 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 83*

[Text] India has supplied relief material worth over 10 million rupees to the people of Indian origin living in refugee camps in Sri Lanka. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Rahim, told the Lok Sabha that a sense of insecurity prevents these people from leaving the camps. He expressed the hope that a viable political settlement would create the condition of security and peace.

**ROK Presidential Envoy Arrives for Talks**
*BK070705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Dec 83*

[Text] The special envoy of the president of the Republic of Korea, Dr Lee Tae-sup, arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a 4-day visit. Dr Lee, who is Korea's minister for political affairs, will have consultations with Indian leaders on matters of mutual concern.

**EXPRESS Questions Venkataraman Remarks on Defense**
*BK211257 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Dec 83 p 6*

[Editorial: "Toys for the Boys"]

[Text] Members of the Rajya Sabha will draw what comfort they can from what Mr R. Venkataraman told them on Tuesday about India's defence preparedness which he described as being at its peak. He was emphatic in stating that the country could face "any challenge from any quarter" (which must include China) and that India enjoyed clear military superiority over Pakistan. This is so, and might come as a surprise to some only because the Prime Minister and certain others holding responsible positions recklessly talk of imminent war and constantly portray the country as weak and vulnerable and liable to be overwhelmed by the "superior technology" being inducted all around. No wonder that the Defence Minister's reassurance lacked credibility for some and that a Congress (I) member, Mr B.P. Maurya, wanted to know if the defence budget should not be further increased. Such misplaced panic is a product of misinformation that needs to be corrected. But what is the Government's policy? Mr Venkataraman was quoted as saying that "We are trying to equip ourselves with every form of defence equipment and we are getting them from wherever they are available." This is a disturbing statement if it means what it says, for it suggests a policy that rises no higher than toys for the boys. Defence is necessary. But at what level and against what threat perception and when?

It would do the country a world of good if Parliament would debate these serious questions seriously. Hard policy questions need to be asked, prime among them questions of foreign policy and national options. Mr Venkataraman's statement that India is keeping its options open on the acquisition (through purchase?) of nuclear-powered submarines is more than a matter of augmenting the country's submarine strength. There is certainly a difference between nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed submarines. But there still remains the uncomfortable question of using nuclear power in a weapons system which is something of a departure from the country's declared policy of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. These are matters that must be debated before and not after the event. In all this, foreign policy initiatives and options seem sadly secondary to strengthening the mailed fist.

### Afghan Troops-Resistance Border Clashes Reported

*OW211920 Hong Kong AFP in English 1856 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Peshawar, northern Pakistan, Dec 21 (AFP) — Fighting was continuing for the fourth consecutive day today at the Pakistani-Afghan border post of Torkham where Afghan Government troops are trying to dislodge some 100 resistance fighters, well-informed sources here said.

On the request of the Pakistani authorities the mujahideen have moved 200 metres (yards) away from the border to avoid Afghan shells falling on Pakistani territory.

Losses have numbered about 20 on each side and 35 Afghan soldiers have deserted and are being held by the Pakistani authorities in the border village of Landi Kotal, the same source said.

A Pakistani Government representative today held a meeting with several Afghan resistance leaders to try to persuade them to end the fighting to allow the road between the two countries, along which a large part of Afghan imports pass, to be reopened.

Pakistan today banned the resistance fighters from crossing the Khyber Pass between Peshawar and the border to prevent the bringing up of reinforcements.

### TANJUG Report on Fighting

*LD311348 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1142 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Islamabad, December 21 (TANJUG) — All communication between Jalalabad and Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's north-western province, has been out for the past three days because of frequent clashes between mujahedin insurgents and Kabul regime troops in the area.

The Jalalabad-Peshawar road and the Khyber Pass frontier crossing are vital communications for the Kabul regime. Even in the present conditions, a major proportion of Afghanistan's trade takes place over this route, with the agreement of the Islamabad government.

According to reports received here from Peshawar, insurgents were this week particularly active in the Logman [TANJUG spelling] Province. The sources claimed that a large number of military and government personnel had joined the mujahedin and a major quantity of arms and materiel was captured.

Mujahedin sources in Peshawar said that insurgents, members of the Islamic Front faction, in the Parwan Province had taken prisoner 42 Soviet soldiers who were being held in insurgent bases in the area.

### Zia Reiterates Political Program, Says MRD Failed

*BK211620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that the political program he announced on 12 August will be surely and sincerely implemented, but that he will not allow anyone to reverse the process of Islamization or to do any harm to the country's ideology.

Referring to the so-called Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, the president said: By the grace of God and with the cooperation of the people, this movement has failed miserably. Such abominable elements with their intrigues cannot force the government to bow down, nor will unpatriotic people be allowed to disrupt the peace and tranquility of the country. He said the country cannot be allowed to revert to the premartial law period of chaos and disorder.

### Sources Comment on Normalizing Ties With India

*BK211615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad today said Pakistan has done nothing to obstruct or delay the process of normalizing relations between Pakistan and India. The sources were asked to comment on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's recent statement in which she remarked that if there is a lack of progress in continuing the process of normalizing relations, it is only because of Pakistan. The sources said that the Indian prime minister's statement is not justified. It is now India's job to carry forward the process of normalizing relations. The sources said the Indian secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs should visit Pakistan to carry forward the process of normalizing relations. India informed Pakistan twice about the Indian foreign secretary's visit, but the visit was postponed because of his engagements elsewhere.

The official sources also referred to the meetings of the subcommissions that were to be held in Pakistan. Pakistan had proposed to hold the meeting of the subcommission on trade early this month, but the Indian trade secretary said his visit to Islamabad is expected in the first fortnight of next month. As far as the other subcommission on economic issues is concerned, Pakistan has proposed that its meeting be held the next month.

The official sources said these steps taken by the Pakistani Government bear testimony to the fact that Pakistan desires to accelerate the process of normalizing relations. Therefore, the blame for any delay in the resumption of process of normalizing relations should not be shifted to Pakistan.

### South Asian Science, Technology Committee Meets

*BK211648 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] The technical committee on scientific and technological cooperation on South Asian regional cooperation began its first meeting in Islamabad today. Inaugurating the meeting, the adviser for science and technology, Dr M.A. Qazi, said for developing countries, which share a number of common problems, there is no other way but to achieve collective self-reliance and collective strength to resolve their problems. The representatives of the member-countries in their inaugural addresses expressed the readiness of their respective countries to cooperate

in the field of science and technology for the development of resources to the benefit of the entire region.

## PAKISTAN TIMES Lauds Stance of Indian Opposition

*GF201347 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 83 p 4*

[Editorial: "A Voice of Reason"]

[Text] Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, who leads the Janata Party opposition in the Lok Sabha in India, has been saying things that go far beyond the partisan considerations of domestic politics. His plaint after visiting Pakistan is that the alarmist campaign unleashed by New Delhi against Pakistan has spoiled the atmosphere in which the two neighbouring countries have been holding a dialogue of normalisation. His allegation that Mrs. Gandhi is playing to the gallery of Hindu extremists and that she has adopted an imperial posture which tends to equate sovereign countries with her party minions does not concern us because it relates to the realm of India's domestic politics. What is significant is that Dr. Swamy has been able to identify the difference in moods prevailing in Islamabad and New Delhi. President Ziaul Haq's overt defence of the policy of normalisation with India despite recent disappointment and frustrations is part of a statesmanship that is needed these days in South Asia. There are many Pakistanis who do not like this 'soft' approach but to those who are acquainted with Mrs. Gandhi's habit of over-reaching herself it is a sane approach in the face of insanity. It denotes a comprehension of the ulterior motives of propaganda issuing from New Delhi and a determination not to sink to a level of dangerous polemics which Mrs. Gandhi wishes to engage in.

To some extent the conduct of state does indeed rest on cunning and deceit but history has shown that an exclusive recourse to this strategy produces its own hubris. The world may be paying tributes to Mrs. Gandhi when she plays hostess to foreign delegations attending summit conferences but criticism has surfaced in international politics about her unprincipled approach to events. It is indeed a very clever strategem to sit next to Pakistan and offer political support to the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan but there are many like Dr. Swamy in India who consider it short-sighted and negligent of India's own long-term security. Similarly, there are voices in India that have been raised against her blatant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan, her great mockery of a show of sympathy for the inhabitants of Sind and her repeated public railings "stockpiling of arms" in Pakistan. Against the empty charges of "Pakistani hand" in the disturbances taking place in East Punjab, there is hard evidence of Indian interference in Pakistan in the shape of sabotage and insurrectionary training. While Pakistan is persisting in holding New Delhi to the course of normalisation, Mrs. Gandhi is busy building up an image of hurt propriety for internal consumption by refusing the stipulated lease of the Jinnah House for a Pakistani consulate in Bombay and by vetoing Pakistan's re-entry into the Commonwealth. While the Indian public is sought to be convinced that Pakistan is offering unforgivable provocation to a peace-loving India, Mrs. Gandhi's actual intention is to apply pressure and attempt a manipulation of the political process in Pakistan as she has done in the case of the other neighbours in South Asia. But the truth of the matter is the she is once again in the process of over-reaching herself politically and there are wise people in India who can see it as such.

## DAWN Views Options for Bangladesh's Ershad

*GF201048 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Dec 83 p 7*

[Editorial: "Option in Bangladesh"]

[Text] General Ershad's assumption of the office of president and the swearing-in of a presidential cabinet represent no more than an insubstantial change in the volatile situation of Bangladesh. This may, however, give the military leader the technical advantage all incumbents enjoy, when he runs for the presidency in May next year. The more significant move on the part of the general is the release of about 300 politicians, including the leaders of the two major alliances — Sheikh Hasina Wajid and Begum Khaleda Zia — and his seemingly open invitation to all political parties to a dialogue. The politicians, in spite of their mutual political and ideological differences, are united in their rejection of talks with General Ershad before the restoration of political activities, release of all political prisoners and withdrawal of arrest warrants or cases against those who have gone underground. The politicians have at least kept their word in not making any effort to disturb the ICO foreign ministers' conference, which has just ended in Dhaka. They now expect the general to place his cards on the table, this is, indicate what his real intentions are with regard to democratic restoration. Does he still insist, as he appears to, on holding the presidential election in May next year, to be followed by parliamentary elections in November? Does he still want a role for the armed forces in the country's administration? These questions will have to be answered unequivocally even if the newly installed president decides to lift the ban on political activities, which he did in November, only to reimpose it a fortnight later.

The political parties, for their part, have amply demonstrated their capacity to mobilise the people behind them in their demand for a return to democracy. The mass demonstrations that have been organised in Bangladesh can be ignored only at a grave peril to the country itself. The opposition's "demands day" on September 30, the strike on November 1, when the country almost came to a standstill, and the massive anti-government rally in November 28 only point to the reality of the popular support the parties can count on in creating trouble for the military regime. In what is apparently intended to be another show of strength, they have called for a countrywide strike on December 20 to back up their demand. This should serve as a reminder that there is not much time to lose now. The political parties, no doubt, have quite a lot of homework to do. They have yet to demonstrate their ability to forge greater cohesion among themselves and to work out a practical political and economic programme for the country. The general, in his turn, has not, as his predecessor did, recognised the importance of building up a sizable political base for himself before exercising his option of transforming himself into a civilian president. His new party, the Jana Dal, has proved to be a non-starter so far. His options now lie in either carrying on practically a holding operation with the help of the armed forces, or offering meaningful concessions to the political parties in a

really serious move towards democracy and progress in the country.

### DAWN Assesses Dhaka ICO Conference Outcome

*GF201040 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Dec 83 p 9*

[Editorial: "Dhaka Conference of ICO"]

[Text] The fourteenth annual conference of the Islamic foreign ministers which concluded its six-day session in Dhaka earlier this week has a mixed bag of achievements to its credit. It reached agreement on some tangible measures such as the adoption of the human rights declaration, the establishment of an international Islamic court of justice and the creation of an administrative set-up of the ICO's military bureau. But on other important issues which have a vital bearing on the Islamic world no decision could be taken on account of the failure of the foreign ministers to arrive at a consensus. On issues on which the members are in agreement, the Dhaka conference had no problem in formulating its stand. Thus, the position traditionally adopted by the Islamic world of Afghanistan, the West Bank, nuclear-weapon-free zones, a Palestinian homeland, Israeli aggression, etc., was reiterated at Dhaka. But these are matters on which the ICO has been voicing its concern over the years and this is what it did once again at Dhaka. The conference, for instance, called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the restitution of the national rights of the Palestinians. In other areas where the foreign ministers could have made a real impact by taking an initiative, they failed to do so because of their acute differences. Thus, no resolution was adopted on the Iran-Iraq war, consideration of which had to be shelved because of the sensitivities of the parties concerned. The issue will now be taken up by the foreign ministers at their meeting in Rabat next month. Similarly, the leadership crisis of the PLO which warranted immediate consideration and mediation by the ICO was not taken up at all. By glossing over the divisions in their ranks, the Islamic foreign ministers failed to provide a forum where differences among members can be aired and then resolved through friendly and evenhanded mediation. In this context, the ICO has yet to establish an inspiring record of performance as an effective instrument of action and conciliation. In fact, some other organisations such as the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement have played a more significant role in the diplomatic processes initiated to resolve the Afghanistan situation, the Gulf dispute and the PLO leadership crisis.

The positive achievement of the Dhaka conference was in respect of the human rights declaration, the world Islamic court, the Islamic women's organisation and the military coordination bureau. These are important measures in the context of the legal and constitutional framework of the ICO. But it should be pointed out that their real value will be established only when they prove to be instrumental in guaranteeing the fundamental rights envisaged in the declaration and in promoting unity in the ranks of the ICO members. Thus, the member-states will have to enact necessary legislative measures to implement the provisions of the ICO's Dhaka declaration on human rights. Much would depend on how this declaration is implemented. As it is, the document does not make these rights justiciable or legally enforceable. Similarly, the Islamic court will deal with only those cases which the member-states agree to refer to it. The military bureau which was agreed upon at the Niamey conference last year and will start functioning from next year will not have a military role in the ordinary sense of the term. It will act as a coordinating body between the PLO and the member countries. Its effectiveness will largely depend on the powers it is given and the cooperation it receives from Muslim countries. The women's body will be evaluated by its structure and functions after it has been set up. Promising as they are, a fuller evaluation of these institutions will, however, have to wait until they have started functioning and produced results. By the same token, a more meaningful perspective on the achievements of the Dhaka conference can emerge on the basis of such an assessment.

### MRD Literature Reportedly Sold as Waste Paper

*GF201030 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 83 p 1*

[Text] Hyderabad, Dec. 9 — The literature of the defunct political parties, now a part of so-called MRD, is being sold as waste paper by waste paper dealers here. It was reliably learnt that members of so-called MRD parties got their membership forms and other literature printed in huge quantity prior to launching of so-called MRD movement in August last.

This literature was distributed to active workers, the advice to commence membership as and when the so-called MRD movement was a success and political activities restored. These active members having been disillusioned with the claims have started disposing of this literature and membership forms as waste paper. The maximum quantity of this literature belongs to defunct PPP [Pakistan People's Party] whose roughly 10 lakh membership forms are a popular item in the waste paper. Meanwhile, the so-called MRD movement has virtually come to an end except at Hala where followers of Makhdoom Talibul Maula are courting arrests in batches of two.

The situation in Sind remain normal and large number of MRD members bought their freedom by tendering unconditional apologies and furnishing good conduct bonds.

According to reports over 50 per cent of the total arrested persons have been released by the government.

### PAKISTAN TIMES Reviews Steps To Control Drugs

*GF201100 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 83 p 4*

[Editorial: "Narcotics Control"]

[Text] A fresh order to control and punish trafficking in drugs points to the seriousness of this menace in our midst in spite of claims that production and abuse of narcotics is under control and on the decline. The federal cabinet has approved draft amendment orders to two earlier legislations which impose severe punishments for offences relating to drugs. These concern the import, export, trans-shipment or possession of opium and its derivatives and coca leaf and its derivatives. Life imprisonment and whipping up to 30 stripes is now to be the maximum penalty

whereas previously this was up to five years imprisonment only. It has been decided, moreover, to constitute federal and provincial committees to monitor the implementation of the new orders.

The drug problem, from being an external phenomenon with Pakistan serving as a source and conduit for the substances destined for use elsewhere, has now become a serious threat to our domestic scene, where its tentacles have reached into slums, residential areas and rural habitations. Illegal trade in narcotics is a high-risk, high-profit business which proverbially has been plied for years by gangs of international smugglers and their Pakistani accomplices. The comparatively low cost in Pakistan as compared to the astronomical prices overseas in a temptation for all kinds of racketeers, foreign and indigenous. According to one official a gramme of heroin in Pakistan can cost up to Rs. 60. The same quantity sells for 3,000 dollars in the U.S. Many fortunes have been made, but at great cost in human terms. Drug addiction has seeped into our society, we can no longer dismiss it as an affliction only of the affluent and decadent West. Some surveys have reported the wide use of drugs by truck and bus drivers in Paksitan. The use and craving for heroin has affected people of various ages in our cities to the ruin of many families. A conservative estimate some time back put the figure at 25,000 addicts. The fact that rehabilitation centres have to be opened in all major cities confirms the reality of the problem. A protest demonstration by women and children against drug abuse in Karachi very recently points to the tragedy at the individual level. The drug problem in Pakistan, therefore, is not just the astute peddlar boarding an international flight, or a hippie crossing the Wagha border. It could be the innocuous fruit-seller at the street corner or any other unsuspected pusher.

The basic issue remains the unauthorised plantation and processing of the major categories of drugs within the country, specially in the northern areas. In the recent past top spokesmen have declared a marked drop in opium production from 800 tons to less than 80 tons after the 1980 ban on poppy cultivation. The law-enforcing squads have succeeded in closing down scores of small factories in the zones known for this illegal activity. The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board has also stepped up its vigilance work to keep a closer control of land, sea and air routes. It is hoped the heavy penalties to be introduced will further deter all those involved in the criminal narcotics business. The general public needs to be more conscious of the threat that drug abuse poses to the social fabric.

## NEPAL

### RISING NEPAL Hails Relations With United States

*BK211536 Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 Dec 83 p 2*

[Editorial: "Important Landmark"]

[Text] The announcement by President Ronald Reagan at the banquet hosted by him in honour of Their Majesties in Washington D.C., of the United States' support and endorsement of the proposal to declare Nepal a Zone of Peace marks, as His Majesty the King pointed out, a landmark in the relations between Nepal and the United States. That the U.S. leadership recognised the Nepalese aspirations for peace in and around their country as well as for their desire to devote themselves completely to the economic and social development of the Kingdom bespeaks of not only a friendly and understanding gesture on the part of the United States but also their own desire for peace. His Majesty the King, in the reply speech at the banquet, outlining the common concern of the peoples of Nepal and the United States said that the peoples of both the countries had common stakes in global peace, prosperity and the survival of man in dignity and freedom. Indeed, it is these commitments by the people of the two countries that have resulted in close, friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries despite the physical distance that separates the two countries. Indeed, as His Majesty pointed out, as soon as Nepal broke its age-old isolation by seeking friendship beyond its borders, it was with the United States that Nepal sought to establish its diplomatic relations. Thus the support and endorsement of Nepal's Zone of Peace proposal at this juncture is a highly important landmark in the relations between the two countries. The fact that the United States is the 38th country to do so indicates the growing understanding of the proposal in the world on the one hand and an increased awareness among the countries of the aspirations of the Nepalese to live in peace and devote themselves to developmental activities on the other.

The prime importance of the support and endorsement of the Zone of Peace apart, the cooperation between Nepal and the United States has been close and fruitful. [sentence as published] The United States had begun providing economic assistance to Nepal ever since the early fifties. But the recent developments in science and technology, as His Majesty the King pointed out, have reduced distances and joined countries as far apart geographically as Nepal and the United States into a family of nations. Such a situation, as stated by His Majesty, demands that all together create an enduring relationship based on a sense of purpose and meaning. Indeed, in such an age, countries have tocooperate in order to bring about greater prosperity for their peoples. For, as His Majesty stated, we live in a world bound in a nexus of interdependence. For instance, as noted by His Majesty the King, were Nepal and the countries of the region to join hands with the United States and other international agencies in a creative effort for prosperity by putting into use a fragment of their human and capital resources in harnessing the water potentials of Nepal, it would not only enable them to walk over a long road to progress for the region as a whole but would also continue to build bridges of understanding between a most advanced and a least developed nation of the world. Thus indeed, the area for cooperation between Nepal and the United States can be varied and wide. The support and endorsement of Nepal's Zone of Peace proposal by the United States, the warm and cordial welcome accorded by President and Mrs. Reagan to Their Majesties at the White House and the cordial talks between His Majesty and President Reagan on Wednesday promise further strengthening of the already good relations existing between the two countries.

## SRI LANKA

### Roundtable Talks on Tamil Issue Open 21 Dec

*BK210357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] In Sri Lanka a roundtable conference is being held today in a bid to find a solution to the ethnic issue. Eight of the nine recognized political parties have accepted the government's invitation to the conference. The Federal Party, which is a constituent member of the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF], has declined the invitation on the ground that it will not participate in such a conference to which the TULF has not been invited. Six of the eight parties which are attending today's conference have expressed the view that the TULF should be present when the proper talks begin.

### TULF Representation Requested

*BK211704 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Excerpt] The all-party conference today decided to request President Jayewardene to invite the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] to send a representative to the next meeting. It also decided to request him to invite the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] and the Nava Sama Samaja Party [NSSP]. The president announced that he would be inviting the TULF to the next meeting in accordance with the decision of the conference. He also announced that he would invite the JVP and the NSSP if the security situation permits.

## Prime Minister Describes 21 Dec Cabinet Session

*LD211643 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The country's current problems and the region's political developments were raised. At the conclusion of today's Cabinet meeting, our correspondent interviewed the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi, could you please tell us what problems were raised during today's Cabinet meeting?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In today's meeting, a report on the unstinting support and the kindness of the Friday imams and our brave, aware, and ever-present-on-the-scene people for the government was raised. Of course, in the government all our brothers are aware and admit that this support is not at all tantamount to support for individuals, but support for the revolution, support for principles, support for the progress of work to the advantage of the revolution. I think that each and every one of our responsible brothers is modest enough to understand this. I want to state here that following the extremely important remarks by his holiness the imam, such acts of support have resulted in world enthusiasm by the people to help toward solving the problems faced by the government. The fact that the imam of the Islamic nation did not stress the subject of support but made only a brief reference to it has amazed us and has greatly helped resolve the situation.

In this connection, the government took speedy action and, on the very day when this was raised, we saw the beginning of support by the people, particularly the Friday imams, and also by truck owners. Immediately, a staff headquarters was set up in the Ministry of Roads and Transport, which in turn set up special organizations in provincial centers and a chain of numerous such organizations in provincial cities in order to make maximum use of the enthusiasm shown by the people to transport goods from various ports. The transportation system is extremely good and we hope that this state of affairs will continue.

It is quite appropriate for us to express gratitude for all this kindness and support; these acts of assistance are much more important from the moral standpoint rather than the material one, and this in itself is undoubtedly a cause for the pleasure for our entire nation. The assistance we have gained thanks to the guidelines of the leader and of those of His Great Eminence Grand Ayatollah Montazeri have always been helpful in solving the problems of the government and we hope — God willing — that these acts of assistance will continue.

[Correspondent] Could you please tell us about other programs in connection with mobilizing the people toward solving problems whereby this mobilization and cooperation by the people will continue.

[Musavi] God willing, we hope what the situation will continue. Naturally, with regard to national problems, as far as I can observe our brothers doing executive work are indeed doing thier utmost to deal with them. As I have pointed out, our main capital in dealing with these problems is the force, the will of the people themselves. In such conditions, this will should be diverted from secondary problems, which the enemies want to create, to the main issues; the government's skill lies in achieving the maximum result from heeding the main issues.

I want to point out an issue raised at the Cabinet meeting. During the session, news on the Middle East was raised, particularly in connection with Lebanon. Discussion took place on the views expressed by Kissinger, one of the agents of international Zionism, about the breaking up of Lebanon and the setting up of a government there. Naturally, it was stated during the meeting that when the United States wants to do something it usually does so in a manner whereby a statement is made first, then this is officially confirmed by the United States, and then a state of affairs is brought about whereby it puts its policies into effect.

Today, the United States and Israel, because of the blows they have been dealt by the faithful Muslim forces of Lebanon and the fact that their stay there is coupled with heavy casualties and a great deal of disgrace have thought of dividing up Lebanon. But we should naturally warn them that Muslims throughout the world — the 1 billion Muslims in the world — would never leave them in peace. The fate of Lebanon should be up to the Lebanese. Lebanon is an Arab, Islamic country and cannot therefore have a fate whereby it would become a plaything in the hands of the superpowers. This growing Islamic movement will frustrate any action, any plot, and any scheme by its own blows.

[Correspondent] The Iraqi regime has shown an interest in the issues of the region and in having ties with the United states, thus a visit has been paid by a U.S. official to that country. What is (?your analysis) of this development?

[Musavi] We have said for some time now that Iraq is an American regime and that it has entered this war at the instigation of the United States. It is natural that we should look at Iraq's allies in the region and see for ourselves from where the arms arrive and whether these arms could have gotten into Iraqi hands without the agreement of the United States and that of Zionism. Egypt alone has given Iraq weapons to the tune of some 1 billion dollars, according to the accurate reports which we now have at our disposal, and IRNA has provided us with an interesting analysis in this connection, showing this assistance. The vast credits the West has given to Iraq, or the wheat the United States is selling to Iraq and the credits it has given in this respect, or the weapons being secured for Iraq from the Kuwait border and from other reactionary countries — naturally all these things reveal the true nature of the Iraqi Government.

The movement of Rumsfield, who is a well-known high level U.S. agent who has had extensive experience with the Islamic countries and has played a large role in implementing U.S. policy in Iraq, indeed serves to reveal these vast, secret relations and the Saddamist regime's joint interests with the United States. This is because that government could not remain there for a single second without Western support and coordination by both East and West. The imam of the Islamic nation once used an expression which is perhaps the most apt: he likened Saddam to a dog unleashed by the United States for an attack on the Islamic

Revolution. This is an obvious reality and Rumsfield's visit to Iraq clarifies this issue even further.

### U.S. 'Plot To Devour South Lebanon' Condemned

*LD212145 Tehran IRNA in English 2001 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the Henry Kissinger's proposed plan for the partition of Lebanon, as a plot by the U.S. to devour south Lebanon, said an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman here today.

Adding he said that the Muslim people of the region as they had ever shown were capable of totally crushing the U.S. plans.

Morteza Sarmadi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, further noted that Henry Kissinger the behind the scenes architect of U.S. imperialist policies had struck a strategic deal with the Zionist regime as a measure to prepare the grounds to implement their imperialist political aims of devouring south Lebanon.

The spokesman further said that the imperialist U.S. and the Zionist regime occupying Al-Quds, because of the wide-scale struggle of the Muslim people of Lebanon have sustained heavy causalties and losses and are in a serious [word indistinct] and have therefore resorted to a new plot to execute the other phase of their last years savage aggression on Lebanon thus releasing themselves out of the dead end in which they have fallen.

The spokesman also said that these plots were attempted to intimidate the Muslims of Lebanon and the region thus making them submit to the U.S. and the Zionist plans of partitioning Lebanon.

Meanwhile the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry also condemned the attack on the city of Ba'labakk of Lebanon by the Zionist regime.

The spokesman said that the savage bombardment of the deprived and innocent people of the region revealed the criminal and the inhumanistic attitude of the Zionist regime which is unable to confront the military Muslim people of Lebanon. These attacks said the spokesman were in coordination with the U.S. and the French Government indicating the defeat of the imperialist plots.

Adding the spokesman stressed that such attacks would only make the people of Lebanon more staunch in their determination to confront and respond the imperialist powers.

### Kuwaiti Charge Summoned, Given Protest Letter

*GF211701 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA — The Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran, Kazem Marefi, was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was given a letter of protest in connection with the arrest of an Iranian educator by Kuwaiti police.

The letter also protested against harassment by Kuwaiti police of the Iranian nationals and their expulsion from that country.

Javad Mansuri, the cultural and consular deputy foreign minister, commenting on the hypocritical policies in the region, added that Iran was witnessing an unjustifiable conduct on the part of the Kuwaiti Government. He stressed that the Islamic governments and Iran's neighbours particularly the Persian Gulf states should note that understanding and friendship were in the interest of the whole region. Therefore, he said the Islamic Republic expected that these countries would deal with realities of the region in a more objective and farsighted manner.

### Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,580

*LD211757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Communique No 1,580 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Congratulations on the anniversary of the auspicious birthday of the last of the prophets, His Great Eminence Mohammad Mostafa — may God's peace and blessing be upon him and his scion — and the birthday of His Great Eminence Imam Ja'far Sadeq — peace be upon him. Battle operations during the last 24 hours are summarized:

Exchanges of heavy artillery fire between the forces of Islam and the Saddamist forces continued yesterday on the border fronts of the northwest region of the country. In the Panjwin sector, our units' artillery fire on enemy positions killed several mercenaries and set on fire several of their vehicles. In addition, our combatants destroyed seven enemy trenches and foxholes and one machine gun, halted movements of the Saddamists, and killed a number of Iraqi troops.

Our combat units' fire on the borderfronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam prevented the enemy from extending his defensive positions; his patrol groups' activities were halted. In addition, our combat units inflicted some losses on the aggressors. Along the supply roads in the region opposite Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Naft-e Shahr, and Sumar, our forces observed and fired on movements of enemy vehicles, inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy.

Exchanges of fire continued all along the lines of contact on the southern fronts yesterday, being more intense in the Shalamcheh region. Some elements of the enemy patrol groups, with supporting fire, were trying to approach the earthwork of our units in the region east of (Talayeh-e Jadid); owing to the vigilance and timely response of our combatants, enemy patrol units suffered some losses and were forced to flee.

The enemy's long-range artillery yesterday fired on residential districts in Abadan, damaging two buildings.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

## Ayatollah Montazeri Meets With Armed Forces Chiefs

### Ground Forces Commander

*LD211355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Ground Forces Commander Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, his deputies, commanders of combat, educational, and cultural units of the Army, and commanders of the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday. During the meeting, while expressing his appreciation, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The brothers are aware that the great revolution which has triumphed in Iran, thanks to the selflessness of our Muslim nation and the correct and decisive acts of leadership by our great leader, has been the starting point of an earthquake the extensions of which we are witnessing today in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Philippines, and many other countries languishing under oppression. In their uprising against oppression, the oppressed nations in these countries have been inspired by our aware nation. This is why in the present circumstances the superpowers from both East and West are united in crushing and destroying our revolution and why they have set a hireling such as Saddam at our throat and are strengthening him. They have realized that if Islam is realized on a world scale they will no longer be able to exploit nations.

He added: Islam's enemies have sensed the danger from the spark which has been ignited thanks to the realization of Islam in this country and have devoted their entire might to extinguish that spark. But our nation has shown that it is steadfast in the work which it has begun, that it has borne and continues to bear the difficulties and problems arising therefrom in order to please God, and that it continues along its path.

Our nation has learned the lesson of self-sacrifice and resistance from the prince of the world's martyrs, the holy Aba 'Abdullah al-Husayn, may peace be upon him, and takes pride in being his holiness' Shi'ites. It has chosen the path and tradition of that illustrious man and his companions and children for its happiness in this world and in the ever after. With regard to sincerity in deeds, he emphasized: My dear brothers should not be concerned in whose name the victory in the war should be achieved. What is necessary and our prime aim is to please Almighty God and to have sincerity in our deeds. Almighty God will reward you and He knows full well what He is doing. We should strive to strengthen our links with God and our work and strivings for God lest, God forbid, our sensual shortcomings and acts of egoism should deal a blow at the sincerity of our deeds.

May God support you and bring final victory as a gift for the great Islamic nation with your hands and grant long life to the leader of the revolution!

### New Air Force Commander

*GF220602 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Dec 83*

[Text] According to our correspondent, the new Air Force commander, accompanied by the official in charge of political-ideological work and the official in charge of the counseling office of the imam [the Air Force, met Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday afternoon in Qom.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri praised the brave personnel of the Air Force. He also praised the leadership for attracting and ("keeping) people, saying that there cannot be too much emphasis on this. Some people might be considered good because they are religious and hezbollahis, but they lack necessary specializations or the necessary management skills. What is important is that both religion and necessary abilities be present. He then talked about the simplicity of the lives of the clerical officials in the Armed Forces and the necessity of keeping the lines of communications open between all branches of the Armed Forces.

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Guards Officials

*LD181907 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 83*

[Excerpts] Officials responsible for projects and operations for the 11 regions of the Guards Corps and officials responsible for the armored defense and artillery center of that combat unit this afternoon met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative at the Defense Council.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Do not forget the issue of Palestine. As long as its people are poor and miserable, as long as Israel exists, the arms race continues, and Islamic countries must obtain their weapons from others, no Muslim should relax. We should be ready to act for the people of Palestine. He added: This strength cannot be found in Arab countries. Therefore, this important task falls to the Islamic Republic and you are the pioneers of this movement. I hope that we and our Arab brothers will witness the destruction of Israel and of other aggressors in the region and that we will rid the people of these criminals.

## Red Cross Delegation Arrives 21 December

*LD211148 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA — A Red Cross International delegation arrived here this morning. The delegation will inspect the destruction caused to the civilian areas of the Iranian cities by the Iraqi missile and aerial attacks.

## Radio Iran Speculates on Fate of Nateq-Nuri

*GF211758 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Excerpts] According to reports reaching us from Tehran, on the eve of the Majlis elections, a number of deputies have resumed their efforts to censor Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri. A number of Majlis deputies, and especially 52 representatives who have criticized Mullah Nateq-Nuri for embezzlement, misuse of position, and plunder of public wealth, say that he has secretly suggested to all his cronies in the governorate generals, district governors, and governor's offices of the Islamic Republic and a number of Friday and congregational prayer leaders in various cities to agitate locally against these deputies.

It has also been said in Tehran that leftist mullahs and immamists are trying to expell all their opposition from the Majlis and stop their approval for participation in the contrived upcoming elections. The Islamic Republican Party has assured them that it will participate in this political collusion. A number of Majlis deputies, led by 'Alviri, Mullah Mahmudi, and Kazem Akbari, state that the overseeing and interference by Nateq-Nuri in the contrived elections is certain to lead to their defeat. They expect him to stop the candidacy of a number of present Majlis deputies through the use of all his cronies in the Interior Ministry, governorates general, governor and district governor's offices and especially as a result of the aid of the Tudeh religious figures in the Majlis and the Islamic Republican Party.

Nateq-Nuri, who has been labelled the [word indistinct] mullah, has been accused of dozens of incidents of embezzlement, and a deputy named Mohammad Rashidian has cited 30 such incidents involving the War-Stricken Foundation [WSF]. We inform you, our dear listeners of a number of these: Presenting falsified records in the majority of provinces to the WSF inspector, spending budget funds without prior administrative allocation, misuse of public funds in Fars Province, province of wedding allowance of the war-stricken to the WSF employees in Fars Province, dispatch of 42,076 pairs of unusable socks, collusion in the sale of 6302 kg of rice and 1530 kg of cereal to Mr Hoseyn Dehqan at 80 rials per kilo of rice.

You see what sort of place the Islamic Republic is and the WSF which was established to look into the problems of 2 million war-stricken Iranian refugees. This regime whose Interior Minister, Nateq-Nuri, Mullah Nateq-Nuri, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, and his cronies and accomplices will not forgo the cigarettes, soap, washing powder, and the food for the war-stricken.

## Trial of Tudeh Party Members Continues

*LD211502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 83*

[Text] The second session of the trial of Bahraminezhad, military official of the traitorous Tudeh Party, and other members under his command started this morning in the Islamic Revolution Armed Forces tribunal presided over by Mr Reyshahri.

During the trial and after the accused were introduced, accused no 1 Bahraminezhad said: I have lost my honor by following the Tudeh Party. I have passed on information to the Tudeh Party and examples of it are on file.

Partovi, official in charge of the party's secret organization, then said with regard to Bahraminezhad's remarks: These intelligence matters were both political and military and all the intelligence we received from the Grounud forces came to us through him.

The accused then said: I accept this. I provided them with information. It was the duty of a party member. However, the statistics which I provided were only estimates and were not accurate. I had no information concerning the situation on the fronts. However, on the basis of the evidence which existed, I forecast that an attack was about to be launched.

The prosecutor then read the bill of indictment against Ja'far Bahraminezhad, accused no 2 [as heard]. The accused talked about the history of his acquaintance with the traitorous and spying Tudeh Party and said: I officially came in contact with the Tudeh Party in 1980-81 and my brother was in charge of me. He added: I never provided the party with secret intelligence. The information which I passed on to them were ordinary pieces of information which were known by all.

Admitting that he had paid membership dues to the spying Tudeh Party, he said: I had no knowledge of the party's conspiratorial policies and spying activities. He added: The party raised the slogan of forming a united front against imperialism and we believed this slogan.

When the court president read from the accused's confessions about providing information to the Tudeh Party about military zones, the accused said: The Tudeh Party's slogans appeared to be in support of the imam. I believed those slogans and I was not aware that the party was engaged in espionage and that it aimed to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Later in the session, the bill of indictment against accused no 3, Ja'far (Eslaminur) was read by the prosecutor. The accused then said: I accept all charges against me and I request the maximum punishment for myself. I cannot accept the disgrace that I have spied for aliens. The idea of spying or overthrowing the Islamic regime never crossed my mind. However, I accept any punishment prescribed for my treason.

The bill of indictment against accused no 4, Seyfollah Ghiasvand, was then read by the prosecutor. The accused talked about how he was attracted to the defunct Tudeh Party: I introduced a number of people to the Tudeh Party and I accept this. But I was not aware of the secret network and the military organization. I merely paid my membership dues. He added: I hope that the Court of Islamic Justice will not ascribe my mistake to deliberate treason against the people.

At the end of today's session of the Islamic Revolution Armed Forces tribunal, examination of the charges against the military wing of the traitorous and spying Tudeh Party was postponed to the next session.

## NVOI Comments on 'Spying' Charge Against Tudeh

*TA202028 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Dec 83*

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Did Islamic Government Employ Label of Espionage?"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: To suppress and defeat popular and anti-imperialist revolutions and movements of all the world's peoples, international imperialism, led by America, has formulated a specific program and policy which it implements wherever it can. The nature and substance of this program and policy consist of suppressing and destroying the most genuine domestic

revolutionary and patriotic forces, on the one hand, and fostering hostility and enmity between emancipated countries and nations with their friends and supporters on the international scene, foremost of all the Soviet Union, on the other.

Right now, we are witnessing the most savage and wicked method of implementation of this program and policy in our own homeland. Imperialist agents and superficial clergy ruling over the Islamic Republic of Iran are dealing fatal blows, from two sides, on the body of the glorious popular and anti-imperialist revolution of our toilers. On the one hand, these lackeys and supporters of major capitalists and landlords issue the death sentence of the revolution by cowardly killing true patriots and revolutionaries and by slaughtering the Tudehis and, on the other, they sound the death knell of the revolution by an anti-Soviet policy and by portraying the true friends and backers of our revolution in the international arena as enemies. In the gradual phases of implementing Brzezinski's directives, these elements have learned quite well that in order to bury the freedom-seeking, independence-seeking, and justice-seeking goals of the revolution, they must either kill the incarcerated Tudehis under torture by using medieval and modern methods of torture, by electric shock and chemical drugs, and by employing various other wicked and disgraceful acts, or break their bodies and spirits so that they will no longer be able to understand their true self in order to induce them to parrot the ridiculous charges of espionage by the Iranian Tudeh Party for the Soviet Union.

The executioners and some leaders of the Islamic Republic have achnowledged the existence of these tortures, of course in the name of so-called Islamic [word indistinct]. Yet despite this, they have not been able to obtain the slightest documentation proving the Iranian Tudeh Party's spying, for such documents do not exist. The only so-called documents these gentlemen possess are the very confessions and admissions by some leaders and cadres of the Iranian Tudeh Party.

However, the point to which attention should be devoted is that the confession of perpetration of a crime by someone, even if it has been made freely and voluntarily, does not have judicial or legal validity and does not prove the guilt of that person, let alone if this so-called confession had been extracted as a result of the most inhuman physical and mental tortures. The Islamic Republic of Iran's judicial authorities also are well aware of this fact, for this reason, too, they sought the aid of Ayatollah Khomeyni so that he will show them the way out of this crisis. The imam of the nation pointed out the remedy to the Islamic judicial authorities by issuing a guideline and gave the SAVAKist clerical executioners a free hand in committing any crime against the Tudehis.

Ayatollah Khomeyni issued the following religious decree in this connection: Even if there had been no other proof of the Tudeh Party's spying, the mere fact that the Soviets are defending them suffices to prove that they are Soviet spies. Should this reasoning by Ayatollah Khomeyni become a basis for judgment, then one must say that tne entire Palestinian nation is a Soviet spy, since for about 30 years the Soviet Union has defended and is defending with utmost power the just struggles of the heroic Palestinian people. On the basis of this religious decree by Ayatollah Khomeyni, all Lebanese patriots and strugglers, all the people of Namibia and Nicaragua, in short, all strugglers on the path of freedom and independence in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are Soviet spies, because the Soviet Union has defended and continues to defend them with all its might. Even Ayatollah Khomeyni himself and other clergy who at one time showed themselves to be in the front of the revolution and the people must be called Soviet spies on the basis of this religious decree, since the Soviet Union defended and is defending the popular and anti-imperialist revolution of our toilers and all revolutionary forces.

What should the Iranian Tudeh Party do so that it will not be called a Soviet spy? According to these gentlemen, if similar to the vast majority of leaders and authorities of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian Tudeh Party too would have betrayed the revolution and its popular and anti-imperialist goals, and like these gentlemen had it been transformed into the lackey and accomplice of imperialism and defender of capitalism, then this party would no longer have been a Soviet spy. No gentlemen, despite all these difficulties, despite the television shows of confessions and admissions, and despite the puppet shows of the fake courts, as long as blood flows in the veins of the Tudehis, the Iranian Tudeh Party defended, is defending, and will defend the revolution and the demands of toilers. No crime and savagery can deter the Iranian Tudeh Party from the path it has traveled unwaveringly for more than 42 years.

What should the Soviet Union do so that the rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran will stop calling this closest friend and supporter of the revolution of our homeland's toilers an enemy? These gentlemen want the Soviet Union to witness all the crimes that they commit againt true patriots and revolutionaries and, most of all against Tudeh patriots and revolutionaries, and maintain its silence. No gentlemen, the history of over 66 years of Soviet Government has shown that the Soviet Union has never failed to defend and support patriotic revolutionary forces anywhere in the world in order to please those who serve imperialism and supporters of exploiting classes.

Our homeland's revolutionaries and patriots are convinced by experience that the Soviet Union was, is, and will remain the true friend of Iranian toilers and the firm supporter of Iranian revolutionary and patriotic forces. The Soviet Union's defense of the Iranian Tudeh Party and of all our homeland's revolutionary forces stems from the Soviet Union's socialist and anti-imperialist nature and is solely within the framework of this country's principled policy of defending all revolutionary and liberating parties and organizations, forces, and figures, movements,and uprisings throughout the world.

## Prime Minister Meets With Sunni Ulema

*LD210335 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 20 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20 IRNA — A Sunni ulema Monday denounced secessionist propaganda of international mass media in creating a gap between Sunni ulema of Kordestan and in dividing them into various categories.

Mulla Qader, speaking in a meeting of a group of Sunni ulema of Kordestan Province with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi,

stressed that Sunni ulema of Kordestan were with the Islamic Government.

Emphasising unity between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims, Mulla Qader reiterated that Kurdish people were Muslims prior to being Kurds. He stressed that they would reject any independence without Islam.

Addressing the ulema, Prime Minister Musavi said that imperialists world and their lackey orientalists were now scared of the unity of Muslims.

During the past century, the prime minister noted, through its archeologists and orientalists imperialism made a research in historical monuments of Islamic countries with an objective to sow discord.

The studies were made on the bases of historical monuments prior to the advent of Islam. Therefore the result of their work was that Iranians would be proud of their ancestors, Egyptians to their pharaohs and others to their pre-Islamic civilisations, prime minister noted.

Referring to the closure of French Archeological Institute in Iran, Musavi said that it was irrational to believe that France, whose hands were stained with the blood of over one million militant Muslims in Algeria, and was at present fighting against Lebanese Muslims, would sympathize with Iran's civilisation and its Islamic culture.

He emphasised that the Islamic Revolution did not confine to Iran and was not a domestic issue, but a universal subject matter, adding that if unity was damaged in Iran it would have its impact on the oppressed throughout the world.

The prime minister said that Kordestan possessed great potential facilities, above all its hard-working talented people.

### IRNA Reports Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks

*GF161736 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 16 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday reiterated importance of the fight against narcotic addiction and stressed decisive confrontation against drug traffickers.

In a meeting with members of the anti-narcotics squad, Rafsanjani pointed out the role Friday prayer leaders and country's mass media could play in educating the society on the dangers of drug addiction.

In another development, a group of members of student and ulema branches of the Islamic Republic Party, as well as a number of professors and students of the Islamic associations of universities, met and conferred with the Majlis speaker Thursday.

Emphasising the unity between theological centres and universities, Speaker Rafsanjani noted that all should persevere in one single Islamic path.

Referring to recent blasts at U.S. and French centres in Kuwait, Rafsanjani said that oppressed people of Kuwait who had become fed-up with the plunder of their wealth by the oppressors, embarked on action against U.S. and French embassies because they were corrupt places.

But, he added, an insane man like Saddam (Iraqi ruler), in order to persuade Kuwaiti officials to pay him more money, launched missile attacks against innocent Iranian civilians.

This took place at a time when Islamic combatants could, with the minimum amount of artillery shelling evacuate the city of Al-Basra one million population where many Iraqi vital resources existed as well, Rafsanjani said.

Stressing that the Islamic Republic would not do so, Speaker Rafsanjani said that God had tied Iran's hands in this respect.

### Musavi Letter to Khomeyni Outlines Economic Growth

*LD171952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 83*

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi today sent a letter to Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the letter is:

To the blessed presence of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may God extend his shadow. Greetings and boundless compliments to the beloved leader of the revolution. The government is a small drop in the great ocean of the Muslim nation of Iran, and if today the government is able to come face to face with the superpowers and to confront oppressive forces, it is because of its reliance on the enormous power of an Islamic nation. It is a mistake for statesmen to believe that the government can have any power without the support of the imam and the nation. We evaluate the services of this government in connection with this support and reliance.

It was in light of this support that at a time when the superpowers were intent on imposing total economic paralysis on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the country achieved 12 percent growth in the industrial sector in the year 1361 [March 1982-March 1983]; in the first half of 1362 in the same sector, 15 percent growth was achieved. The 15 percent growth in GNP during 1361 — an unprecedented growth after the negative growth of the years immediately after the revolution — is in the view of the government, the result of unreserved support and guidance from the imam and the nation. The government's role in providing for the imposed war would not be possible without the weighty presence of the people on the scene and alongside the beloved clergy. This has resulted in the creation of a productive and peaceful atmosphere in which to work, along with other atmospheres created by others.

The speeches and guidance of the great leader of the revolution has surely made the responsibility carried by every serving brother even heavier. On the other hand, their enthusiasm is increased for continuing their efforts and struggles in the path opened by Islam before our nation.

Finally, on behalf of all those serving in the government, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that if work has been done in the country, it has been because of the blessings of God and the divine guidance in this country of the hidden imam, may God speed his coming. The government is merely the means of achieving the aims chosen by our nation in its Islamic Revolution. If there are shortcomings, they are not from the honorable nation. These shortcomings are the responsibility of the government and all those serving in it. It is our obligation to adjust our ways to confront the complex issues of the country and the world, in order for the government to be able to provide service worthy of the greatness of this revolution and the Muslim nation.

God willing, the holy aims and dreams of the Islamic Revolution will continue to shine like a torch to guide the deprived and the oppressed people in the world.

[Signed] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister

## Commentaries View Kuwait Explosions, Aftermath

### U.S. 'Vengefulness' Scored

*GF170730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0442 GMT 17 Dec 83*

[Unattributed commentary: Rain of Rockets Against Our Cities Is Result of American Vengefulness]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Last Wednesday, five cities in our country were the targets of the blind vengence of the United States and its mercenary Saddam. The cities of Dezful, Andimeshk, Behbehan, Ramhormoz, and Nahavand were damaged and rocket attacks and bombardments left martyrs and wounded behind. Just as the holy Koran said: "The infidels and the aggressors have become angry against Muslims and the faithful because they have faith in the Lord."

Following a series of bomb explosions in Kuwait, the imperialist propaganda monopolies put Iran's name under question, like the past, and even though our country's Foreign Ministry denied any part in the Kuwaiti explosions, it is completely clear that the financial and information oppression never makes its decisions on the basis of our acceptance or denial. Whenever a plot has been hatched and goes into effect, they deafen the world.

This is not new since anytime the interest of U.S. imperialism or the Zionist regime has been threatened in the Middle East and especially in Lebanon, the faithful Muslims have immediately been accused and then martyred. It is clear that the oppressors want to fish in muddy waters. When a bunch of people attempt a coup d'etat in Bahrain, the name of Iran is raised. When in Qatar individuals are arrested and accused of attempting to sabotage the GCC conference, then the possibility of Iran's involvement is immediately raised. When Bashir Al-Jumayyil is sent to hell in Beirut or the U.S. Embassy or den of spies is blown up, they immediately involve Iran. When the Marine headquarters or French paratroop positions are blown up or the recent Kuwaiti explosions occur, then the Americans immediately say: "It is highly likely that the Iranians are involved!"

Following the explosion at the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut, Weinberger shamelessly and without any proof, falsely said: The Iranians carried it out with Syrian aid. The result of the explosions were the repeated bombings of the Shi'ite region and Ba'labaak by the French and the Zionists.

However, why don't the Lebanese Shi'ites and the oppressed of the country want to accept the yoke of foreigners? It is because they have faith in God. Because a number of individuals have carried out some operations against U.S. and French bases in Kuwait, the people of Ramhormoz, Nahavand, Dezful, and Andimeshk must be the targets of revenge or the Syrian positions must be the target of American ships, as several times last week. The Americans say: We fly over Syrian positions in order to be able to attack them properly later and they open fire against our aircraft! Therefore, we are justified in bombing their positions.

This is a ridiculous and unbelievable reason. However it happens, and the Syrian positions are bombarded.

From the time the attempt started to involve Iran's name, albeit weakly at times, wherever a terrorist act takes place, the atmosphere has been prepared so that if an attack is made against our cities tomorrow, no one will express concern. A number of bombs expode in Kuwait and then the criminal Saddam announced that he will take revenge against Iran! The explosions in Kuwait and the bombing of our cities had nothing to do with each other. However, the puppet news agencies and the criminals and oppressors create such commonality.

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz said immediately after the explosions: The same people who blew up the Marine headquarters in Lebanon are responsible for the recent explosions in Kuwait. The organization referred to by Shultz is the Islamic Jihad which announced itself as a supporter of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Therefore, what Shultz has in mind is that all these operations have been carried out by those supporting the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Later on, Reagan stated that there are around 1,000 suicide guerrillas in the Middle East, most of whom are Iranian and work for Iranian interests, and Iran must contain them. The *NEW YORK TIMES* then published a false article stating that several thousand individuals have been undergoing terrorist training in Iran for sometime now in order to carry out suicide missions.

When such opinions and articles are ripened by the propaganda monopolies, they frighten everyone into believing that the United States will take revenge. It is not clear where or when. The ties between the explosions in Kuwait and rocket attacks against a number of our cities have been falsified. The Zionist regime, America, and France have forces in Lebanon and can directly revenge the anti-American operations. This duty falls on Saddam in the Persian Gulf for the Kuwaiti explosions.

What is very important and should be analyzed in detail is the certainty that U.S. imperialism will not let up on its propaganda. Considering the fact that people in the region have become more aware of U.S. oppression and harshness, it can be expected that

their reaction to U.S. propaganda will in fact intensify rather than lessen.

Let us put the entire issue together again. The Multinational Forces shell the Shi'ite positions in southern Beirut or that of the Syrian forces or the Shi'ites in Ba'labaak and on this side the criminal Saddam takes "revenge" for the destruction of the U.S. and French Embassies in Kuwait from our people! What does the future hold?

It is certain that the popular and Islamic actions against the occupying forces will increase and in turn the propaganda and psychological war calling for revenge — in reality a preparation for plots and massacres — will intensify further. Therefore, these issues force us to be more alert about the future than in the past to the more serious and active intervention of the meddling forces in Lebanon and the Persian Gulf since, given the present examples, the imperialists are currently preparing the ground.

### Iraqi 'Lies' Examined

*GF172050 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 83*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] While the Kuwaiti authorities are busy investigating the causes and perpetrators of the bombing incidents which took place in Kuwait last week, the embassy of the Iraqi rulers in Kuwait issued a statement charging the Islamic opposition as being behind these bombing incidents. The embassy also claimed that the perpetrator of one of the bombing incidents is an Iraqi national who had received a death sentence in Iraq.

The Iraqi rulers have a definite goal in mind in releasing these lies. This is very clear, because any Kuwaiti can himself uncover it. Their goals are very clear. First, it is to place the powers of the international arrogance, particularly the United States and France, in direct confrontation with the Islamic opposition in Iraq. Following the painful blows which the factions of the Islamic movement in Iraq directed on symbols and on the institutions of the regime and following the assumed mushrooming of the Islamic revolution in Iraq, the battle between the regime and the opposition began to shift in favor of the opposition which has caused the regime to face hard options. It is nothing new for the regime to discover its total weakness before the fragile but comprehensive opposition and to realize its disadvantages compared to the gushing current which constitutes the Islamic revolution in Iraq. The Iraqi rulers have but one option in confronting this surging current. This option is to call its American and French lords and their allies in the region to direct their efforts and capabilities in confronting Islamic revolution in Iraq, so that this confrontation will be more comprehensive. The lies which were reverbated by the Iraqi Embassy represented this open invitation for group participation in liquidating the Islamic opposition in Iraq.

In addition to this goal, there is the evil goal aimed at those elements of the Iraqi opposition which have fled from the injustice of the Iraqi rulers and settled in Kuwait. Therefore, what the Iraqi rulers want is to liquidate these elements by resorting to old practices against those Iraqis who reside in Kuwait. These leaders believe that by fanning this rumor, they would be able to get carte blanche from the Kuwaiti Government allowing them to carry out oppression in Kuwaiti territories and carry out their terrorism policy which they have adopted against the Iraqi people wherever they may be, even outside Iraq.

Moreover, there is a third goal behind these lies. This goal is designed to associate the bombing incidents — which were prepetrated by the Islamic Jihad organization in Kuwait — with the Islamic Republic of Iran and thus justify the cowardly attacks which were executed by Iraqi fighters and missiles against civilian targets in the cities of Dezful, Andimeshk, Behbehad, Nahavand, and Ramhormoz, so as to give the impression that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Iraqi opposition which perpetrated the bombing incidents, in accordance with the claims of the embassy of the Iraqi regime in Kuwait.

Therefore, through these lies, this regime hopes to distract attention from the basic reasons for the Kuwaiti incidents, which were directly linked to the flagrant aggression carried out by U.S. and French forces — aggression against Lebanese civilians.

## Reportage on Afghan Mujahidin Activities

### Kabul University Explosion

*GF161722 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Dec 83*

[Text] Nine Soviet civil experts were killed and a number of others were wounded during a bomb explosion at Kabul University. The bomb was planted by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. The explosion destroyed parts of buildings in which the experts were working.

### Retaliatory Attack Outside Kabul

*GF181709 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 18 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — Aggressive planes of the Soviet forces, Thursday, bombarded two villages near the city of Qandahar, in Afghanistan, and martyred 48 civilians, mostly women and children, it was reported Saturday.

Radio Dubayy reported that in this attack heavy damages were inflicted upon the people of the villages.

The mujahideen, the report further said, in a retaliatory operation made an attack against the occupying forces positions outside Kabul city and killed six Soviet troops.

## Free Voice of Iran Cites Kordestan Skirmish

*GF191740 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 19 Dec 83*

[Text] In a 2-hour clash last Thursday, a Rastgari strike force group killed 15 revolution guards in (Rezawar) village. The peshmerga Rastgaris also captured the revolution guard camp at the village. Reports received indicate that the Rastgari soldiers

captured a considerable quantity of booty, which included arms. The Rastgari guerrillas suffered no losses in the skirmish. (Rezawar) borders (Nasud).

This is umpteenth time that the Kurdish fighters— members of the Rastgari force—have successfully attacked the regime soldiers in Kordestan. Iranian Kordestan is a province in western Iran, the capital of which is Sanandaj. However, the Iranian Kurdish area also includes parts of Western Azarbayjan, [place name indistinct], and Iraq.

The Iranian Kurds aspire for freedom of all Iran from the imperialist imposed clerics regime. The Iranian Kurds who, are followers of Saint Hazrat Osman, founder of the Naqshbandi order, and follow Sheykh 'Ezzoddin Hoseyni, turned against the regime of Khomeyni when he plotted a rift between Shi'ites and Sunnis of Iran and ordered the bombardment of the Kurdish area with (?explosives) and napalm. Since then, the Kurds have continued their fight against this anti-Islamic regime of Khomeyni.

The Free Voice of Iran welcomes every patriotic force fighting against the Khomeyni regime and considers it a means of establishing a true national government.